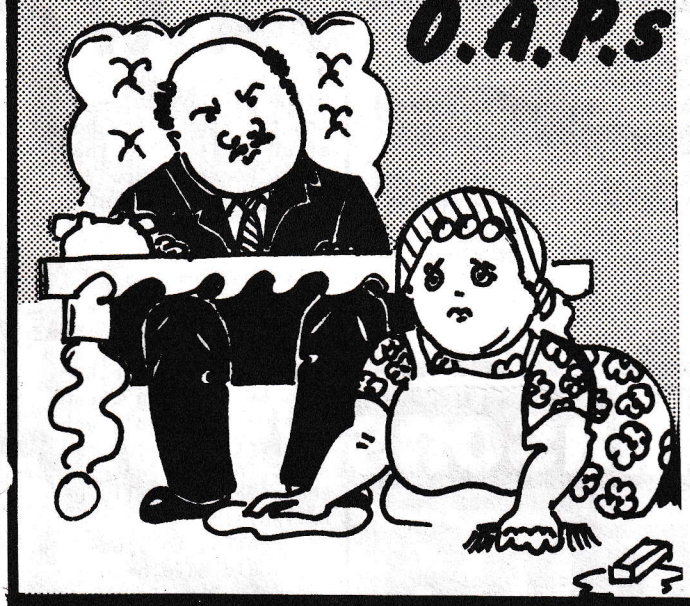
TAMESIDE EYE

THE MONTHLY PAPER FOR
DENTON MOSSLEY HYDE
DROYLSDEN AUDENSHAW
STALYBRIDGE DUKINFIELD
ASHTON LONGDENDALE

NO 30 FEB'82 20p

RIPPING OFF O.A.P.S



EXPOSE A GROPER

AND LOTS, LOTS MORE.....

Businessman found in nappy shock!

BORIS, CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY

CANNY JACKS SKIS

POISON CLOUD PROBE

NEWS

TOTAL CON?

TOTAL DISCOUNT, the furniture warehouse operating from WHARF MILL, ASHTON drew in custom from miles around with their "FLOOD SALVAGE SALE." But angry EYE readers say it was all a 'con'.

After seeing TOTAL's big ads in the REPORTER and on T.V. many folk went bargain-hunting. One couple travelled over 50 miles. But when they got to WHARF MILL on the Sunday after Christmas there were no very low price items, as advertised. Instead of the '£49 3-piece suites', for example, they found suites costing from £100 up to £900.▷

One EYE reader, who got there at 9.30 am quizzed the Manager on this: he told her they had 'already gone'. But the furniture on display had no gaps in it and was quite un-disturbed. She promptly went outside, put up a notice saying the sale was a 'con', and turned away disappointed customers.

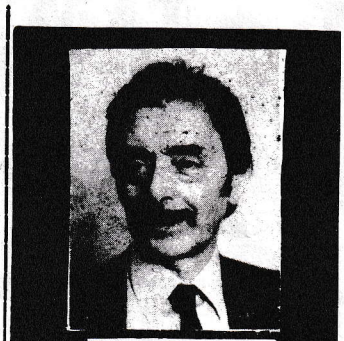
TOTAL DISCOUNT also continued their Flood Salvage Sale on New Year's Day. When EYE tried to contact TOTAL for comment, the ASHTON base at WHARF MILL was not in the telephone book, and their Manchester Office weren't answering.

"HEIL!"

1984 is still TWO YEARS AWAY but TAMESIDE council leader ROY OLDHAM seems to be starting early.

At the top of the front page of TAMESIDE's lavishly produced STATEMENT OF STEWARDSHIP (which was paid for out of your taxes and pushed through every letterbox in the borough at the request of Environment Minister MICHAEL HESELTINE) UNCLE ROY is *NOT* referred to as *THE COUNCIL LEADER*, nor is he described as *THE LABOUR LEADER*, nor even *A* Leader.

No! The headline describes him simply as *THE Leader!*▷



" THE LEADER "

A quick glance at your GERMAN/ENGLISH dictionary will confirm your suspicion that the GERMAN for *THE LEADER* is *DER FUHRER*. We eagerly await the announcement of ROY's first *NUREMBERG RALLY*. □

Brickheads

An eagle-eyed EYE reader spotted several workmen chipping cement from around mouldy bricks in the graveyard wall, just off Cranbourne Rd., ASHTON.

"Why are you doing that?" she asked, "When you've chopped all that cement out it won't be safe."

"We're not paid to think" they replied.□

TAXI?

A 17 year old DUKINFIELD girl ended up walking the four miles home, after a disco, in the small hours on New Year's Eve - thanks to CIRCLE TAXIS of ASHTON & HYDE. It was the second time they had failed to turn up after advance booking. (The other was Christmas Eve).

They attracted the bookings by offering cheap fares - but didn't warn prospective customers that, in their case, cheap means totally unreliable.

Interesting to speculate who would have been judged guilty if the girl had been raped on her way home - the girl for walking at night, or the taxi firm for forcing her to do so. (Now don't be silly we all know it wouldn't be the rapist).□

EXPOSE A GROPER

Sexual harrassment - in case you missed all the recent publicity - is a kind of blackmail. Bosses take advantage of their position to lecherously grope, poke and generally manhandle their female employees.

Recently TAMESIDE NALGO decided to take action against the boroughs lascivious males in offices, shops and workshops.

But, when we rang NALGO's MARY JOHNSON to find out who the gropers are she said she had no idea.

The local Union hadn't▷ done any research and were simply following national union policy on sexual harrassment.

So hows about US doing that research for them ? We want YOUR experiences of SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AT WORK, no matter how trivial. It all mounts up ! Let's get these boozy, paunchy, hot-breathed gropers and pokers out in the open !

Ring MOSSLEY 3424 or 366 0382 any time. And remember, we never reveal our sources!□

Masons

We had a phone call from a FREEMASON reader who thought we'd been a bit unfair on the local brethren in EYE 28.

"We do a lot of work for non-Masonic charities, and we're a society with secrets, not a secret society" said our anonymous caller.

But what about Masons helping each other out at work with promotions and suchlike?

"Not allowed" he said. "I'm not saying that if I wanted some building work done on my house I wouldn't go to a FREE-MASON first, but that's different."

Indeed it is sir! But it reminded us of just how many local Masons are involved in the building trade! We're working on a list at the moment which we'll publish in an issue or so.□

Businessman found in nappy shock!

We learned recently of a tiny TAMESIDER whose assessment of our local press and businessmen shows amazing sensitivity .

Whilst changing her nappy the father of this prodigy discovered a small well chewed bit of the ADVERTISER on which was a photo of that scoundrelly MOSSLEY businessmen ROBERT WRIGLEY.

PARKY

If you're thinking of taking a stroll in STAMFORD PARK on a bracing winter afternoon, don't forget to take a crowbar. Despite the helpful notice announcing GATES WILL BE LOCKED AT 4.30 the parky and his hound of the Baskervilles lock up anytime from 3.50 onwards.

Neither of them can read.□

MUCKY

Before the lads and lasses at the TAME VALLEY preservation group get started on the next stage of their praise-worthy plan to tidy up and beautify the borough's mucky old rivers and canals, they could do worse than tidy up their own backyard. Their H.Q. on the canal between MOSSLEY and HEYROD is an absolute *tip*.□

Mean Beaks

Why are ASHTON Magistrates so stingy ?
According to figures released by Grt.Manchester Legal Services Committee, they refused 18% of criminal legal aid applications in 1980, whereas most Courts between 5 & 10%. DUKINFIELD based SOUTH TAMESIDE Magistrates weren't much better: they refused 101 applications for aid - 13½% of the total. Perhaps it's because there are only 46 TAMESIDE Solicitors on the Legal Aid list - compared with nearly 400 in MANCHESTER. So, if you think you're going to need Legal Aid, try and get caught south of the border!□

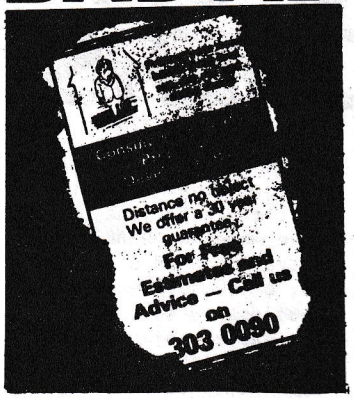
Robin's nissed

We were pleased to hear that ROBIN THORNBER of MOSSLEY is having his first play performed at the OLDHAM COLISEUM theatre.
ROBIN a well known local carouser and occasional contributor to this upstanding organ, is the NORTHERN ARTS EDITOR of that trendy newspaper THE GUARDIAN.
And, funnily enough, he has written many glowing reports of COLISEUM productions for that paper. So many, in fact, that he was made a THEATRE TRUSTEE recently.
We are convinced that all this has had NOTHING to do with ROBIN getting his play on there.
Incidentally, the play is set, like so much of ROBIN's social life, in a pub.□

Addled.....

MOTTRAM in LONGENDALE Church bells did not ring in young 1982, despite a long tradition of heralding historic events and New Years.
They were silenced by the complaints of untraditional locals, one of whom (BEN TIMPERLEY of WARHILL FARM) is reputed to have entered the belfry itself in a blasphemous attempt to quell the vibrations that were addling his goose eggs.□

BAD AD



The Advertising Standards Authority tells us that "All advertisements should be LEGAL, DECENT, HONEST and TRUTHFUL." Well we wondered how many of those reassuring words could be applied to this advert for 'Property Developments', we found in a recent copy of that fine upstanding free-sheet, the ADVERTISER.▷

EYE regulars will recognise the telephone no. of MR. JOHN WARDLE whose dubious exploits we investigated in EYE's 28 and 29. Many TAMESIDER's have been ripped-off (sometimes dangerously) after phoning 303 0090. Surely saintly BRIAN (the-simple-fact-of-the-matter-is) CHADDERTON, Editor of the ADVERTISER would not wish to publish an ad that was in any way dubious.
We rang him up to reassure ourselves, but were dis-appointed at his gruff 'no comment' reply.
We were only trying to protect your readers BRIAN.

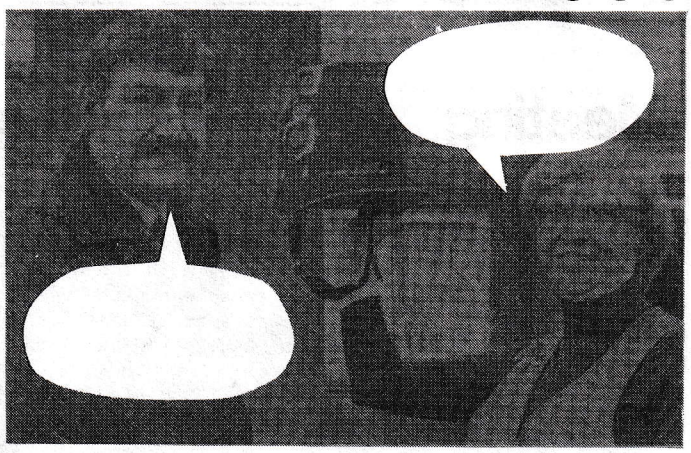
By the way, WARDLE-watchers; our JOHN told everyone he was taking a weeks holiday in the U.S.A. last September, but he obviously had a last min. change of heart, because he was seen living it up at Butlins Pwllheli that very week.□

Duki's bunker

TAMESIDE have finally decided what to do with at least *one* of their redundant TOWN HALLS now that THE DUSTBIN is fully operational in ASHTON.
Yes, believe it or not, the basement area of DUKINFIELD TOWN HALL has been designated *The* ▷

Nuclear war H.Q. for the area!
Giving them their due, council leader ROY OLDHAM and Chief executive DAVID SPIERS aren't altogether keen on the idea, but they have been pressured into it by the Government.
What next? Maybe they'll turn all the other old TOWN HALLS into mortuaries for the dead bodies!□

Bubbles...



This month's burning issue. . . why is this TAMESIDE housewife clutching the bobby's headgear? Can you help us fathom the mystery by filling in the bubbles? Send your solutions to us at P.O.Box 30, HYDE, and you could win yourself a year's subscription to TAMESIDE EYE. The best also-rans will receive an 'I never read TAMESIDE EYE' badge.□

True grit

Pensioners still sore from falling on icy pavements should spare a thought for the problems of Ivor Baldwin, the man in charge of Tameside's gritters.
Gritters and snow ploughs it seems, whilst maintained in excellent working order during the summer months, are just not up to coping with 'bad weather conditions.'
When we 'phoned Ivor's office a spokesman explained that there is no financial provision from the G.M.C. to clean the roads around pensioners houses and free old people, many of whom were trapped in their homes for almost a month over Christmas.
The spokesman went on to say, smugly, that they have no obligation to clear these 'minor' roads and referred the EYE to Tameside Legal Dept.
Maybe TAMESIDE should buy some snow ploughs and gritters which DO work in snowy conditions and take some of the cash wasted on the Mayor to make next Christmas more fun for the old folk.□

GREETINGS

Residents of TAMESIDE who missed the 'Christmas Greetings' section of THE REPORTER of December 10th, will be delighted to hear that genial Mayor GEORGE NEWTON and family were anxious to pass on their 'sincere' good wishes for the season.
The EYE wonders whether the greeting would have been quite so sincere had the £17.50 paid for the 5cm double column display ad. come out of the Councillors own pocket?
Instead, TAMESIDE ratepayers themselves paid for the privilige of 'best wishes for health and happiness' from the NEWTON clan.□

LEAD ASTRAY

Last issue we revealed that baby walkers produced by DROYLSDEN toy firm SHARNAWARE LTD. may contain disturbing quantities of lead.

Since then, a chemical analysis of the baby - walkers sent to SHARNAWARE by BURY paper METRO NEWS has provoked no response from the company. And when we tried to ring SHARNAWARE boss SIDNEY ORCHANT he was un - available for comment.

Safety?

We were disturbed to discover that under the TOYS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 1974, the use of several potentially dangerous chemicals, including lead, is permitted within certain limits. Even more worrying is the fact that under the CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT the use of toxic matter in the materials from which toys are frequently made - for example plastic - is subject to no restrictions whatsoever.

SHARNAWARE's 'Chicky' baby walkers are therefore *still* quite legally on sale, and there is no prospect of anyone taking them off the market.

The quantities of toxic materials alleged by METRO NEWS to be in the wheel spaces and plastic handles of the SHARNAWARE babywalkers are not sufficient to worry BOOTS, ASDA and the CO-OP.
They worry us!

Since METRO NEWS first carried a letter alleging that plastics supplied to SHARNAWARE from LITTLEBOROUGH firm QUANTUM PRODUCTS contained toxic substances, the BURY paper has been threatened with legal action by QUANTUM boss GORDON SHEPHERD.□

RIPPING OFF PENSIONERS

PETER DEARDEN lives in a big house in BRAMHALL, drives a £35,000 MERCEDES from GERMANY, takes exotic cruising holidays in THE GREEK ISLANDS.....and exploits old aged pensioners in TAMESIDE.

DEARDEN is the owner of EUROPEAN CONTRACT CLEANERS LTD. of STOCKPORT, who employ 16 women to do the cleaning at ICI in HYDE. The cleaners, aged 40 to 81, get £12.50 for two and a half hours cleaning work five days a week. It works out at exactly £1 an hour. The cleaning load is heavy, usually involving a couple of long corridors and anything up to a dozen offices every day.

Contract

When they start work with EUROPEAN the women sign a contract saying that they are not entitled to any compensation from the company for accidents at work, and are not entitled to sick pay.
All time off through ill-health is docked from the women's monthly wage of £50, but they still have to produce a sick note. Which costs £1.65 on average!
And the women haven't had a pay rise in nearly two years!

Meeting

DEARDEN *did* call a meeting with the ICI cleaners about wages last March. And he failed to turn up - *twice.*

He eventually made the third meeting and charitably announced that he was going to give the women a rise of *3.5 pence an hour!*
But that was the good news. The bad news was that he intended to knock *half an hour* off their working day without reducing their workload.

Do the mathematics and you discover that this neat little arrangement would have made MR. DEARDEN an extra £8 or £9 a month out of every cleaner! Needless to say some of the ladies objected. And MR.DEARDEN's reply - as remembered bitterly by our informants - was..

"Look me darlings, you'll do as I say or get off the premises."

Unfortunately for DEARDEN word of his lousy plan leaked out to ICI management, who, we understand, put their foot down, and the following week the cleaners were told their working day could remain the same, but there would be *no wage rise at all.*

When we rang EUROPEAN CONTRACT CLEANERS MR. DEARDEN wasn't available, but the Personnel Manager heard what the cleaners had told us and said "Yes, that's quite possible" but felt unable to comment further.
DEARDEN is able to pay his cleaners at ICI so little because many of them are old aged pensioners who get taxed if they earn more than a certain amount every week. Which is nice for MR. DEARDEN.

EUROPEAN CONTRACT CLEANERS Ltd.
DAILY OFFICE CLEANING
INDUSTRIAL CLEANING/PAINTING
24 Hour 7 Days A Week Service
10 Garnet Street, Stockport, Cheshire
061-480 5328
061-480 8139

A typical example of DEARDEN's attitude towards his employees cropped up again in the week before we went to press. Cleaners at ICI noticed that DAVID BARNSLEY, their immediate boss, was missing. After making enquiries they were told that he was at a factory office in Reddish where DEARDEN had just sacked all his cleaners there. Poor DAVID was having to do their work!□

CANNY JACK'S SKIS

The things some of our local businessmen will do for a bit of free publicity.
Our ASHTON readers will perhaps recall a front - page photograph in the December 18th REPORTER showing Rotarian J.P. JACK MILLIN *skiing* to work at his shop opposite ASDA on OLDHAM ROAD.
"It has always been my ambition" said JACK to the gullible REPORTER hack *"to ski to work.*
Sure JACK. But didn't the whole thing have a teensy weensy bit to do with the fact that your 'outdoor pursuits shop' actually *sells* skis?
At any rate the REPORTER article quoted JACK's view that skiing isn't expensive.
Which is more or less true, as long as you don't count the cost of air fares and hotel fees in swank ski resorts.
Certainly JACK himself shouldn't find it difficult to afford. This canny cross country skier was paying himself £16,774 in Directors fees way back in 1979.□

Festive

At a party held before Christmas at ASHTON COPSHOP an EYE reader asked a police man of Inspectorial rank what all the carousing coppers would do if they were stopped on the way home in their obviously tired and emotional state, and asked to blow into a lucky bag by a passing colleague.

"No problem" said the Inspector, *"we just say we've been to a party and we're on a 'D.5.'"*

All suggestions as to what exactly a 'D.5.' is to this paper in a plain brown wrapper for next issue!□

BORIS, CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY

BORIS BUCKLEY, boss of ASHTON textile fibres firm, G.BORIS BUCKLEY LTD, spends considerable amounts of his precious executive time making life difficult for a very small engineering firm. He must also be TAMESIDE's only live-in mill owner.

PETER WILSON and his son CHRIS run SMP, a small engineering firm which makes trailers. As business built-up, their old Park Rd. DUKINFIELD workshop became too small. So, last June they moved to bigger premises on Whitelands Rd, sharing a yard with the mill next door. But this wasn't just any old mill, it was BORIS BUCKLEY's - and that's exactly where their troubles started.

They fought *ROUND ONE* over the electric. To get the power on in their workshop SMP needed access to the sub-station, which happened to be housed in BUCKLEY's mill. When asked, BORIS gave them a key to it, *and then rang up NORWEB inspectors to say someone was in the sub-station - illegally!*

GEORGE BORIS BUCKLEY is CHAIRMAN of three closely connected textile firms: G. BORIS BUCKLEY & CO; BORIS BUCKLEY (GARNETTERS) LTD.; BANKWOOD YARNS LTD. Latest accounts available to EYE show BORIS' companies trading at a loss, with 5-figure Bank overdrafts.

Eventually, SMP's electrician managed to connect up the cable.
But BORIS said he was worried about its safety, so SMP agreed to put a guard over the cable as soon as a fine week-end came along. *BORIS just couldn't wait. At the beginning of August he uncoupled the cable and left it coiled up in the yard.* Leaving SMP to spend an extra £300 laying the cable underground, away from interference.

They fought *ROUND TWO* over SMP's company sign, which was hung on the gate. *BORIS kept turning it round!* In desperation the WILSONs finally bolted it to the wall at the side of the yard entrance.
With the 'joke' by now wearing a little thin, they fought *ROUND THREE* over access to the 'shared' yard. Late night working to meet deadlines is common with small manufacturing units like SMP. So, one September evening the WILSONs came to finish a job, taking care to lock the yard gates behind them. *BORIS called the police,* who found themselves in the embarrassing position of asking the WILSONS what they were doing working in their own premises... and went away.

At 1a.m. BORIS made a brief appearance in the yard-in his dressing gown, suggesting to startled observers that this Captain of Industry was actually kipping in his office. (In fact, he has since had a flat built for himself inside the mill). During the next few days, BORIS changed the lock on the gates without telling SMP or giving them a key.
So at the next late-night session, SMP had to use bolt-cutters to enter their own workshop.
An uneasy truce now exists and the flow of solicitors letters may have found one reason for the rapid decline in the fortunes of TAMESIDE's textiles industry.□

"ALL WE WANT IS OUR RENT"

JOHN and ROGER DEAN, the DENTON-based property speculators have been using unpleasant strong-arm tactics on GEE CROSS residents, in their ruthless and single-minded pursuit of money. But they've met with stiff opposition.

JOHN and ROGER DEAN are accustomed to making their money fairly effortlessly *See EYE 22 and EYE 23 for the DEAN story* . One of their favourite business practices is to trap unwary house-buyers with their clever and unfair 'rental mortgage'schemes. But their plans for making cash in a quiet, secluded corner of GEE CROSS HYDE have come unstuck.

Daisy Bank and the end of Apethorn Lane in GEE CROSS consist of three rows of modest cottages, and the square of land behind them has been used by the residents for their cars, washing lines and general access for many years. Until December, when the DEAN's put a steel fence across the square entrance and tipped a lorry-load of rubbish there. And made threats of more rubble to follow.

But, the residents didn't take this quietly. They took the steel cable and posts down. The DEANs put it back up again. After which the whole lot *somehow disappeared!*
THE NORTH CHESHIRE HERALD dutifully reported the theft of £190 of fencing, and the C.I.D. could not discover who had perpetrated the evil deed.

At the same time the DEAN's threatened to bull-doze gardens on Apethorn Lane. For several years the DEANs have laid claim to this land, which residents believe to be common land.
In the heated argument before Christmas, residents say, one of them was butted by one of the DEANs. After the flare-up, ROGER DEAN told them *"All we want is our rent."*

Now the DEAN's ownership claims are to be tested in the Courts following an injunction preventing them doing anything to the gardens, taken out by angry residents.

70 year old JOHN BEATTIE of Apethorn Lane has had double trouble from the DEAN's. It was bad enough when the rubble they dumped blocked his car in his garage. But then, over Christmas, a pipe burst next door and flooded JOHN's home.
The DEANs own this house and are currently doing it up.

Bagshaw

But the DEAN's aren't the only spoilers, messing up this peaceful part of GEE CROSS. Wealthy WALTER BAGSHAW of nearby BOWLACRE FARM owns half of the square and five Daisy Bank cottages. WATER's contribution to the housing shortage has been to keep three of them empty, two for more than six years. Rubble from one of WALTER's cottages is piled high in the square, because WALTER was too mean to pay for a skip to take it away.□

HARRY DEAN, as pictured in THE REPORTER, swimming in DUKINFIELD BATHS. This photo and a lengthy front-page feature on HARRY's athletic feats appeared the same week as HARRY's off-spring, JOHN and ROGER, were out causing trouble in GEE CROSS - a matter THE REPORTER have not bothered to cover.

POISON CLOUD PROBE

CLOUDS OF LETHAL BLUE ASBESTOS FIBRES ALMOST CERTAINLY BLEW ABOUT CARRBROOK VILLAGE FOLLOWING LAST SEPTEMBER'S EXPLOSION AT THE FILTHY CHEMSTAR CHEMICAL WORKS. . .

Did this poison Carrbrook?

Firemen reported the presence of exposed blue asbestos at the CARRBROOK works in the days immediately following the explosion. This has since been confirmed by officials of TAMESIDE environmental health department, *but the full extent of the danger the blue asbestos posed to local residents has never been made public.*

No mention of blue asbestos appeared in newspaper reports immediately following the explosion. And in THE REPORTER of Jan 1, 1982, a report that 'Blue asbestos has been found in old textile premises in CARRBROOK' made no connection between this and the CHEMSTAR explosion and thus provided misleading reassurance about the danger the asbestos posed to local residents.

"Providing the material is sealed it is quite safe" said Dr.Frank Hewitt of UMIST. *"The problems begin when you begin knocking buildings about."*

Dangers

EYE investigations suggest that the blue asbestos mentioned in THE REPORTER article WAS exposed in the CHEMSTAR explosion, and was therefore "knocked about" quite considerably.

Blue asbestos is lethal. It causes cancers of the chest, lung, stomach, small intestine and rectum. In Britain the use of blue asbestos is limited to two fibres per cubic cm. of other material. American scientists report that any one exposed to blue asbestos present in the ratio of 5 fibres per c.c. for a full working day will breathe in approximately *15 million deadly carcinogenic fibres. Relatively short exposures to tiny amounts of blue asbestos can cause fibrocis of the lungs.*

When the ENGLISH CALICO WORKS used by CHEMSTAR were built in the early part of this century there were NO limits on the amount of blue asbestos used in insulating materials.

It is more than likely, therefore, that enormous amounts of blue asbestos were exposed at the moment of the CHEMSTAR explosion.

The force of this explosion would have powdered some of the exposed asbestos and flung it into the atmosphere round CARRBROOK. Where these deadly fibres drifted would depend on convection currents and the strength of the wind. *It is more than likely that some of it was breathed in by local people and firemen.*

When we rang TAMESIDE environmental health chairman KENNETH RAE he assured us that the residents had been in no danger. TAMESIDE, he said, notified the HEALTH ADVISORY EXECUTIVE as soon as they heard of the blue Asbestos and a 'giant operation' was mounted to shift it.

But according to Councillor RAE this operation did not take place until late September or early October last year, leaving several weeks when powdered asbestos was exposed to the wind and weather. Firemen tell us that a lot of the asbestos would have been damped down by the water they used on the explosion.

But a major question mark still hangs over how much was released at the instant of explosion.

TAMESIDE should launch a major inquiry into this, NOW. □

LEON ON A LOSER

LEON "BIGGLES" HOWARD, owner of HELICO LTD., the accident prone helicopter firm based at STAMFORD WORKS, MOSSLEY, has appealed against TAMESIDE COUNCIL's attempts to clip his wings.

The Appeal will be heard at a PUBLIC INQUIRY at the LOUNGE, ASHTON TOWN HALL, on Wednesday 3rd FEBRUARY, at 10.00 a.m. The Inquiry Inspector has been appointed by ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, MICHAEL HESELTINE. No doubt he will be wanting to know how LEON's choppers managed two spectacular crashes and one forced landing (see *EYE 26*, for exclusive coverage) in less than two years. Anyone can present evidence for or against LEON getting the planning permission he desperately needs, either in writing to the DEPT. of ENVIRONMENT or in person at the Inquiry. □

A Death in the family

THE WELL PUBLICISED FUNERALS OF PROMINENT LOCAL PEOPLE FREQUENTLY PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF PROFITABLE BUSINESS AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THAT ARE ORDINARILY HIDDEN....

Such was the case on the third of December last, at Dukinfield Crematorium when nearly 200 TAMESIDE businessmen, Rotarians and magistrates met to mourn the death of 44 year-old MOTTRAM accountant DAVID BROADBENT.

The main connection for many there was business.Mr.BROADBENTS firm of accountants , E.BROADBENT FISH AND CO. of 113 OLD STREET,ASHTON, have been minimising the tax liabilities of local businessmen for the best part of this century.

So TAMESIDES top estate agent and property dealer PHILIP DAWSON J.P. was there so was almost the entire board of GORDON AND HOUGH LTD., the up and coming STALYBRIDGE building firm who are currently planning money-making office developments in the old STALYBRIDGE fire station. The money-lending fraternit fraternity was well-represented . Top local lender NEVILLE THOMAS ARDERN GREENWOOD J.P. of MOTTRAM OLD Rd. STALYBRIDGE was there, and so was a rep. from the MINSTER FINANCE CO, of ASHTON:The company DAVID BROADBENTS father WINSTON EWART BROADBENT held shares in for many years.

Local accountants MOSS and WILLIAMSON sent along their boss, former REPORTER Director J.P. STANSFIELD ....and so on, and so on.

Overlaying these business connections is an intricate web of social and sporting links . Many of the people attending the funeral live close to each other in the closed moneyed communities in and around MOTTRAM Rd.and MOTTRAM OLD Rd. in STALYBRIDGE. DAVID BROADBENTS business connections, like most business connections, were sealed in social and sporting clubs. DAVID BROADBENT was a member of the ASHTON LACROSS CLUB and the ASHTON NOMADS cricket club .So are GORDON AND HOUGH directors DAVID GORDON, PHILIP GORDON, and TIMOTHY SOWOOD(See EYE29 , "J.P.'s UP THE CLUB"). At the NOMADS DAVID BROADBENT met KENNETH PICKUP, for many years the influential clerk to the MAGISTRATES at DUKINFIELD COURTS, and his son,MANCHESTER barrister JAMES PICKup, who was the LIBERAL party candidate for HYDE and STALYBRIDGE in the 1979 elections .

Our local establishment, as even this brief look at one of its public ceremonials shows, is closely knit in ways we are rarely aware of. □

£600,000 for 'Keystone Cops'

WANTA JOIN TAMESIDE'S VERY OWN KEYSTONE COPS? WELL, YOUR CHANCE COULD BE COMING! PLANS ARE AFOOT TO SET UP A PRIVATE FORCE TO DEFEND OUR BOROUGH'S BEAUTY SPOTS FROM VANDALS. 100 LOCAL UNEMPLOYED WILL BE KITTED OUT IN "DISTINCTIVE UNIFORMS"(see artist's impression) AND TRAINED IN SUCH USEFUL PROCEDURES AS HOW TO ARREST ORDINARY CITIZENS.

The cops ('Community Wardens') will patrol public buildings from 5pm - 1am in search of vandals, and spend their days *"making contact with groups of people in the community"* to encourage them to stop being vandals.

And jolly good too, you say - except that some of their prospective tasks are disturbing. They include the following; *"In the case of young people found loitering within the curtilage or near council owned premises (provided that no act of vandalism has been committed) the warden will endeavour to talk to the young people and provide positive help."* Positive help? For standing in the street?? Deckchairs, perhaps.

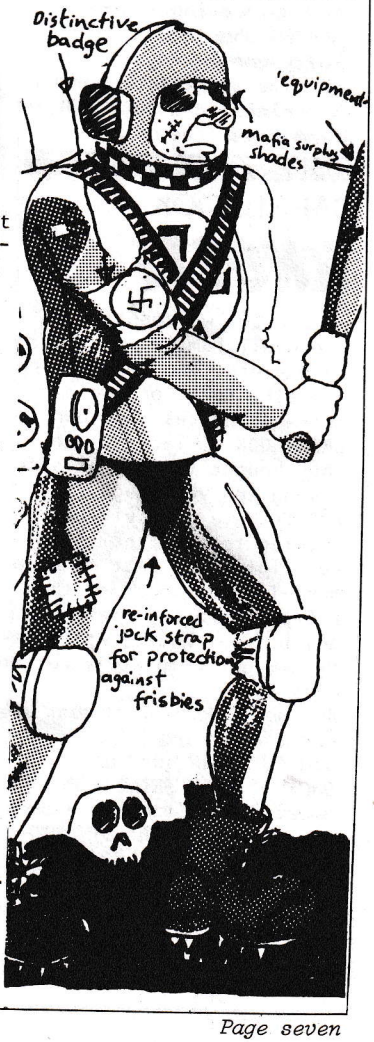
A frightening vision of escalating violence is contained in the plans. Can you imagine needing "protection" at your child's school jumble sale ?

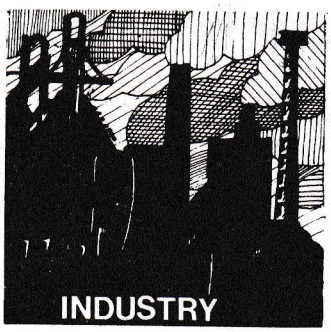
"Wardens will be encouraged to attend school activities . . .eg.bazaars, jumble sales, concerts, parents evenings, partly to provide security and also to get acceptance within the school community."

The plan was concocted by TAMESIDE Personnel Dept. under CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER METCALFE's leadership, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY's contribution being made by NORMAN PREGNALL, the character famed for his inability to manage a minibus. The council sent it back for rethinking at its last meeting but GMC are planning a similar scheme county-wide anyway.

The whole package will cost an estimated £629,300, £564,000 to come in wages from the MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION, and £40,000 from TAMESIDE (what they reckon they'll save against vandal damage.) The remaining £24,000 is still to be found. In terms of value for money, what is anyone getting? The unemployed recruits will earn a princely £78 a week gross, and, according to the 'objectives' of the scheme, their 'employability' will be improved. But WHO will employ them in a year's time when the scheme ends? What it boils down to is a towing of the Thatcherite line - extra public money spent to strengthen the forces of law and order at a time of savage public spending cuts, rising unemployment and public discontent.

Couldn't the £629,3000 our Labour council is considering wasting on this silly scheme be more profitably used in improving TAMESIDE's youth clubs and community facilites? □





WAVERLEY STAINLESS FABRICATIONS

CLEVER

JOHN RADFORD, Managing Director of the small DENTON-based WAVERLEY STAINLESS FABRICATIONS, has found a clever way of avoiding holiday payments and breaking overtime agreements.

In December he took on about six engineers - for a month. Then got rid of them just before Xmas, thus avoiding holiday payments. But then during the holidays he took on staff again. He also asked the work-force for Sunday and other overtime in December, thus breaking nationally negotiated agreements.

With so many redundancies in the engineering industry, RADFORD should have no difficulty continuing to hire and fire at will, ignoring the unions in a THATCHERITE dream come true. □

CARRBROOK

KNOTT!

In EYE 28, we reported on the KNOTT family of property dealers, who were trying to raise rents on the old terraced houses they own in CARRBROOK village. Since they bought these houses for a song ten years ago, the KNOTTs have done virtually nothing to stop them from deteriorating. Last month a Rent Tribunal awarded them a 50p increase in rent on all but one house, which has by now got completely rotten floors.

And now TAMESIDE Council are considering buying up the old CHEMSTAR site at the BUCKTON VALE PRINT WORKS for housing developments - which the KNOTTs bought off ENGLISH CALICO in 1972. They long ago clawed back the £80,000 outlay for the village. TAMESIDE's compulsory purchase would be a nice bonus. □

HUMPHREY LLOYD

TOOTALS MAKE PROFITS FROM CLOSURES

TOOTALs have just closed down HUMPHREY LLOYDs, the DROYLSDEN shirt factory they took over only two years ago. This is part of their deliberate policy of ending manufacturing in the UK, and transferring the production overseas. Last year, TOOTALs turned 1979s loss into a £12 million profit.

In September 1979, JOSEPH RYLANDS delivered his last annual report as Chairman of HUMPHREY LLOYD & SONS LIMITED, the DROYLSDEN-based shirt-makers. At that time RYLANDS was employing 238 workers, and spoke of £275,713 Capital and £339,267 Revenue reserves. Four months afterwards, TOOTALs took them over. Two years later, TOOTALs have shut HUMPHREY LLOYD down, making only (sic) 75 redundant. But why did they reduce the workforce by over two-thirds before closing down altogether? And what happened to all those reserves?

The big three textile multinationals - TOOTALs, CARRINGTON VIYELLA, COURTAULDS - have all made huge job cuts in the past two years, whilst increasing their profitability. In the latest Company Reports, all the firms' Chairmen express deep regret for the human distress involved in this "rationalisation", whilst blaming cheap foreign imports and high exchange rates for their problems.

JOBS EXPORTED

They don't mention that all the British textile multinationals are major importers of these cheap foreign textiles, that their new and expanding overseas subsidiaries have taken over foreign markets traditionally supplied by the UK factories they have now shut down, and that the Tory exchange rate policy is part of their deliberate long-term policy of maximum profits for multinationals, with little concern for the human and social consequences.

TOOTALs now have subsidiary companies in SOUTH AFRICA, HONG KONG, INDIA, NIGERIA, amongst others. World-wide their work-force has gone up 30% since 1975 from 34,100 to 41,000 now. But the expansion took place overseas: a 100% leap from 14,000 to 28,000. Whilst in their British factories employment fell 30% over the same period, from 19,500 to 12,400. TOOTALs official policy is now to move *"production where volumes and prices can be played to their best advantage".*

RAELBROOK

It is worth spelling out the direct relationship between TOOTALs factory closures and the imports they are bringing in from Third World countries to replace their production. Their RAELBROOK shirt operation, based at STOCKPORT and LONDON, has been reduced to a LONDON-based marketing operation selling the output of the few remaining production workers, who now stitch together nearly-finished parts imported from TAIWAN.

Meanwhile workers at the TRUTEX school-wear warehouse in CLITHEROE, Lancs., report a massive increase in imported goods, following the closure of 4 TRUTEX factories in Greater Manchester in the last two years.

Then there is the TOOTAL factory in NEWTON HEATH, where several hundred workers used to produce dressing gowns and handkerchiefs. It now operates exclusively as a warehouse handling third world imports.

But the example that arouses most bitterness, involves CARRINGTON VIYELLA. Last year they shut their DHOBI rain-wear mill in OLDHAM, making its entire workforce redundant. The mill was then taken over by an independent firm of textile importer called INTERNATIONAL GARMENT SERVICES - who immediately received a large order from CARRINGTON VIYELLA!

It's certainly no consolation for HUMPHREY LLOYD workers, but the new multinational strategies are working. And viable alternative policies for import controls have been undermined badly. The final irony is that the Government's Short Time Working subsidies have been underwriting the whole process.

In 1980-81 COURTAULDS got £8.6 million in subsidies. This accounted for all the firm's pre-tax profits, in a year when it wrote off £97.6 million as the cost of reorganisation and closures.

A. WILLIAMSON

SHABBY

The shabby treatment of redundant employees who had spent decades working at WILLIAMSONS TICKET WORKS behind WHEELS in ASHTON (see EYE 28) began to look even more shabby just before Christmas, when it was announced that ALFRED, FRANK and JOHN WILLIAMSON had just got planning permission for 24,800 sq.ft. office development on the site.

The money they will make from a development on that scale contrasts unfavourably with their failure to even say thank you to a worker who had spent 62 years on their payroll. □

EYE INFORMATION SERVICE

WE CAN PROVIDE DETAILS OF LOCAL COMPANY ACCOUNTS, PROFITS, DIVIDENDS and DIRECTOR'S SALARIES, plus BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MANY LOCAL ISSUES.

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Ring us and we'll find out.

RESELECTION FOLLIES

DROYLSDEN Cllr. JOHN HALES will *not* be Labour's candidate again in the May elections. He missed reselection by 12 votes to 14, to PETER JEPSON, the ex-Liberal now Labour, photographer. □

Ivy to grab George's seat?

...DUKINFIELD Cllr GEORGE HATTON may have had his attempts to form TAMESIDE's hereditary MAYORALTY foiled. GEORGE's seat is up for grabs in May, and he's now facing a serious challenge from local woman IVY ROBINSON. At the last reselection meeting, they got 10 votes each, and GEORGE won by a casting vote from the Chair. But this was not correct Labour Party procedure, so they've got to vote again. GEORGE, apparently, is not taking it at all well. □

Ungodley squeeze

Councillor GLYN FORD, controversial EDUCATION CHAIRMAN is on GODLEY WARD Labour Party's short list of candidates for the May elections. But he currently represents HURST in ASHTON, so why the search for pastures new? Perhaps his majority at the last election was so small in HURST, GLYN no longer feels it's a'safe'seat - *thanks to the S D P threat.*

Publicly TAMESIDE's Labour leadership won't admit the Socially Decent People to be a problem, but privately it seems they are preparing for the worst.

NEWTON Councillor PETER BAILEY, current HOUSING CHAIRMAN, is *also* on the GODLEY short-list, no doubt trying to escape the venom of 'fellow' Councillor SYLVIA SWIFFIN (see last month's EYE) which leaves GODLEY's present councillor ANN BOOTH about to be squeezed out by the big guns.... □

Cold Ken

STALYBRIDGE Cllr KEN RAE, current Chairman of ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE may regret giving the committee's technical and scientific advisor DAVE EVA the cold shoulder. For EVA has just published a Pan Paperback on "Health and Safety at Work". Given the continued failure of KEN's committee to stop the Stink at SMITH BROS. in HYDE, it needs all the good publicity it can get. □

'No councillors'

Apologies to Councillor HARRY STACHINI for the December EYE report which incorrectly had him proposing that unemployed youngsters should 'be cleaning out the gutters'. In fact, EYE understands that HARRY, who is unemployed, was still smarting from another blow at the time our article was published. After a successful job interview HARRY informed his prospective boss he was a councillor and was immediately refused the job and shown the door. □

Fracas

DROYLSDEN Cllr. DAVE BOYLE was suspended from his favourite drinking haunt recently - DROYLSDEN LABOUR CLUB. He tried to break up an argument at the Pool Tables between two comrades - both, apparently, rather 'tired and emotional'. In the fracas that followed DAVE got nutted and thrown out, along with the sportsmen. He's been allowed back now, but we fancy he won't play peacemaker for a while. □

Pendry Power

TOM PENDRY, M.P. for HYDE and STALYBRIDGE, spent a fortnight in the UNITED STATES before Xmas. His jet-setting is partly explained by him now being a junior Labour spokesperson on Foreign Affairs. It's interesting to note that his visit coincided with U.S. officials' refusal of a visa to IAN PAISLEY. Perhaps PENDRY's experience as a NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTER in the last government was used to help them make their minds up. □

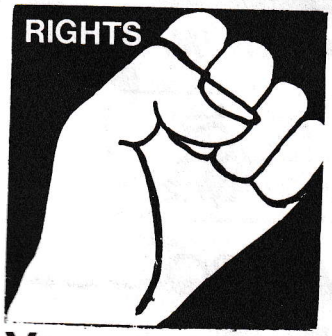
Hallo Readers!

Following the fantastic success of THE REPORTERS cat-photo competition the Editor of this publication has given me permission to launch a circulation-boosting stunt of my own. So I now invite EYE readers to send me photographs of their pet goldfish preferably posing in slinky swimwear (in or out of their bowls: but please send *very rude* snaps in plain brown envelopes). We will get some well-known idiot (probably STUART HALL) to judge this momentous event in order to discover *THE SEXIEST FISH IN TAMESIDE 1982.*

If this works we will run a follow-up competition to find *THE BOROUGH'S MOST EROTIC FERRET of '83.* This year's thrilling competition will climax with a lavish reception at Droylsden's CONCORDE SUITE (or maybe CARRIAGES) where Mayor GEORGE NEWTON (or GEORGE HATTON probably since they will have swapped over again by next year) - will give the winner a big sloppy kiss and a packet of ants' eggs.

So rush those photos to us, folks!

Wretch



Young workers scheme

Alongside the recent Govt. announcements on 'training' schemes for young people, their new *'Young workers scheme'* came into force on January 4th 1982.

Now any employer taking on full-time a young person (18 or under) can claim from the Government £15 per week for those earning below £40, and £7.50 per week for those earning £40 to £45.

These payments will last for 12 months.

If you are under 18 or know someone who may qualify as a young worker under this scheme, be careful: some employers may try to pay below the going rate for the job, in order to get the maximum Govt. subsidy.

So, if you are going for an interview try to find out the normal rate for the job, and make sure your new employer does not pay you less.

Short time working

Many workers in the TAMESIDE area are still on short-time working. This probably means their employers are receiving payments under the Government's *"Short time working compensation scheme".*

But examples have come to light of local employers trying to con employees into believing they have to accept various changes in work practice or conditions, in order to qualify for the grant. Such as, telling employees they have to drop demarcation practices or do jobs they wouldn't normally do *OR* that they must agree to alter their working hours.

There are no such conditions attached to the short time working subsidy. The employer is left to make whatever arrangements are necessary or agreed upon with the work-force.

Get the Dept. of Employment leaflet 'Temporary short-time working compensation scheme' or ring them at Sunley Bldg. in Manchester (061 832 9111) for more details. □

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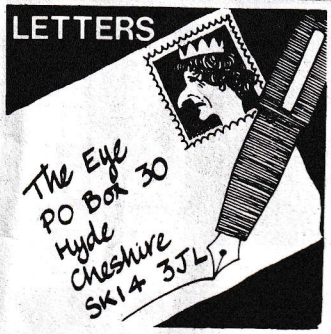

Peace Camp

DEAR EYE,

We are writing from the Women's Peace Camp, outside Greenham Common American Air-base, Berkshire. This Camp was set up after a women's Peace March in Sept 1981 to protest against nuclear weapons and the self - destructive path society seems to be taking. It has been decided to extend the action beyond our presence at the main gates - after all, the perimeter of the air-base is 12 miles!

We want to set up an Artists' Peace Camp at one of the other gates, to encourage artists to become creatively involved in the campaign. One proposal is to turn the whole of the perimeter fence into one long placard of protest.

The Women's Camp is on the Basingstoke Road out of Newbury (A39)- look for signs:"RAF Greenham Common South". Bring accomodation and funds if you can. Or, if you don't want to stay and work, you could bring donations of artist's materials, firewood, costumes, canvas, tents, food etc.

The Artists' Peace Camp, Greenham Common, Berkshire. □

Profits

DEAR EYE,

I am writing to let you know about PETER HAWLEY and GRAHAM HARRIS who own H and H Fabrications Ltd., Woodend Indust. Estate, Mossley.

The small workforce has not had a pay rise for three years and married men with families to support take home less than £60 per week. Every time a rise is asked for, even by the longest serving workers, their answer is,'if we give you a rise we will have to close down.' Almost brings tears to your eyes until you find out that one of the owners has recently bought a £30,000+ house on the Mottram Rise site, both have had expensive holidays abroad and both run expensive Volvo cars which get renewed regularly.

A little gem of an incident that happened recently sums up these two completely. The other week saw one of the bosses celebrating his birthday. At lunchtime both partners went out for a quick booze-up and when they returned, had a crate of light ale with them. He opened four bottles and shared them out amongst eight blokes who were working at the time. Surely such generosity and humanity deserves to get a mention.

Yours,
ANGRY
(Name and address withheld)

EYE REPLY: We'll be looking at H & H profits in a forthcoming issue.□

Lowes Arms

Forty six pence buys you the best pint, in fact the only pint, of Boddingtons in Denton, that is, at the LOWES ARMS on Hyde Road. It is served to you by DORIS one of the hardest working barmaids in TAMESIDE. She somehow manages to cope with the ever in - creasing taproom trade single handed whilst the lounge seems to lack crowd capacity but has a well stocked bar, of barmaids that is;

The LOWES has all the assets of a popular venue, two pool tables, space invaders, one arm bandits, clean toilets, two bars and a very good looking Landlady.
But this host of beauty once renowned for her distribution of fresh flowers throughout the pub, has let the side down, because the thirstiest beings in the place are the sadly neglected pot plants.□

The Star

Christmas week in OLD ST. ASHTON heralded the opening of a new Boddingtons venue for TAMESIDE's Chief Executive and his cronies to explore.
Still retaining its original name, THE STAR INN has taken on a new image, economically rearranged inside by the fastly expanding firm of GORDON & ROUGH, this town centre ale house will no doubt become the in-place of TAMESIDE's about-town cliques, as well as the hardened beer drinker who prefers the real thing.
The place is clean, comfortable, and although not the cheapest pint of Boddies around it is well kept and well served.
There is no pub grub but customers are quite welcome to take in their own butties.
The obvious first weeks customers came from that dedicated lunchtime crowd from THE DUSTBIN on Ashton market. Obviously searching for new feeding grounds were the Finance Depts hard core, having been far from their last watering hole THE TALBOT in STALYBRIDGE, these stalwarts go for grub rather than ale, but N.A.L.G.O.'s own DAVID EVANS and DOROTHY MARSDEN seem to have found a quiet corner in the lounge.□

BUBBLES!

Answer to Bubbles No. 28 Dec.81

We print above the funniest answer to December's "BUBBLES" It was sent in by Mr. John Davies of 34 Whiteacre Road, Ashton, who gets a free six months subscription to EYE.

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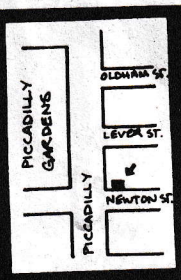

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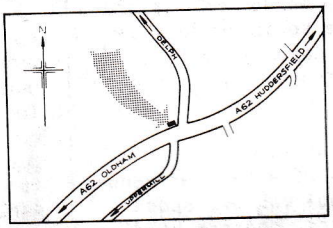

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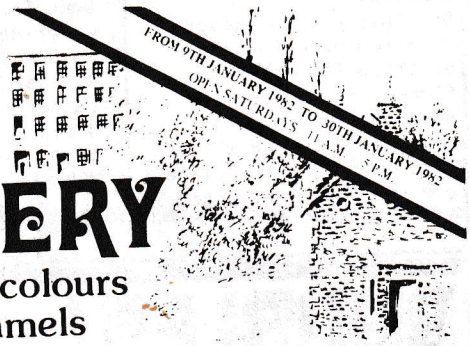

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